

WIPO E-Commerce 2001

Identities & Identifiers with an IDN flavour

Patrick O' Brien GM Registry

A Multilingual Internet For Everyone, Everywhere



I-DNS.NET

- Local language Asian test bed 1999
- A Full Service IDN solutions provider
 - Domain names
 - Email
- Solutions for gTLD's & ccTLD's
 - > IDN's for TLD's,
 - Country Code Registry's
 - Dot.com Registry & Registrars
 - Registry service Outsourcing
 - Operator for range of IDN TLD's

www.i-dns.net



Drive to Internationalise ...

Category	Current	2002/3
Web pages in English	68%	50%
Web users speak English	57%	37%
Online Populn US (98%)	45%	30%
E-commerce Sites	96%	70%
Sales Online outside US	90%	50%
↑ ML.com	4%	??? %



John Klensin -- IAB

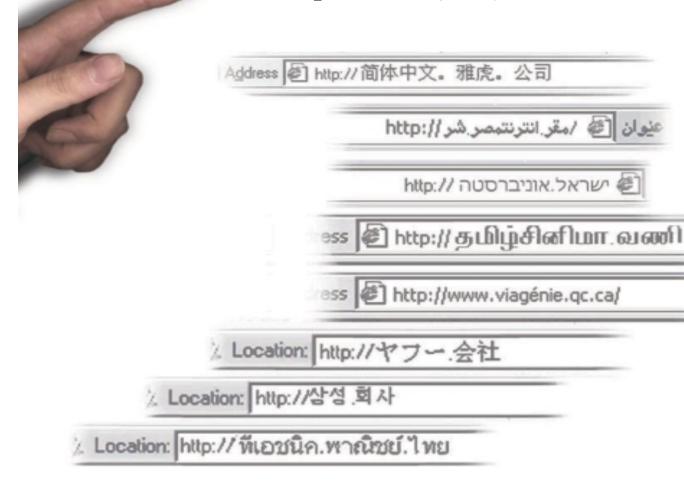
"Internationalised domains...
...biggest change to Internet...
... since deployment of IP..."

ICANN Melbourne March

Bigger than Ben Hur ...



Getting from here ... http://هرام.م





NS.net

to here ...



IDN's in Use 🌡 Location: http://简妹中文 雅度 小司 ↓ Location: http://简妹由文:雅度、公司 **DECODE** ENCODE INTERNET Transport



IDN's

- Use of local languages on the 'Net
- Increasing Utility for non-English
- Addressing the Digital Divide
- Scripts not Languages see WIPO ccTLD Conference paper ...
 - http://ecommerce.wipo.int/meetings/2001/cctlds/presentations/obrien.pdf
- Adoption, Use & Cultural Identity
- ... not Technology & IDN Identifiers see ICANN IDN Task Force paper ...
 - http://www.icann.org/montevideo/idn-topic.htm



Identity vs. Identifier

- Les Miserables
- Jean Valjean ... or
- Prisoner 24601?



Objectives

- Identity vs. Identifier dialectic
 - Broaden it ...
 - > ... not address it
- Give IDN Context
 - Pointers from our past
 - ... heel-mark for today
- IDN means Change
 - Technology is one factor
 - > ... so radical that we should fear?
 - > ... or so beneficial that we should embrace?
- Handout on site



Patrick O'Brien



Ancient Egypt



WIPO





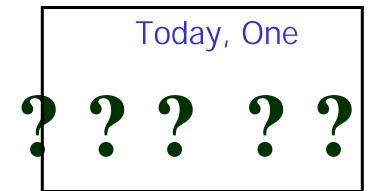
Languages of Egypt

- Hieroglyphic
 - Hiero sacred
 - Glophus writing
 - Kings & Pharoes



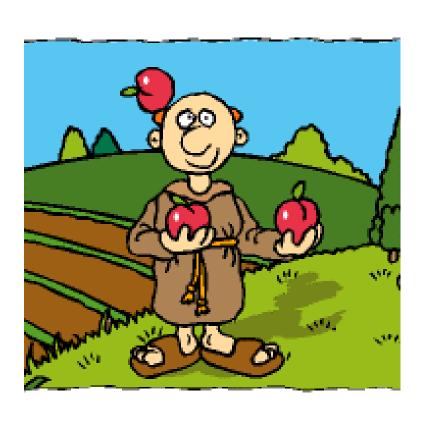
WIPO

- Heratic
 - Heraticus Priesthood
 - Religious
 - Goose vs. Gus
- Demotic
 - Demos Public
 - Common man





Ye olde England ...



- Latin
 - > The Church
 - > Education
- French
 - Government
- English
 - Common man
 - "vernacular"

Ye olde English Bible ...



Reformation

- Driven by lower prices
 - Church Monopoly kept Bible prices too high
 - * Tyndale's New testament 3 shillings
 - Lollard's Manuscript 54 shillings
 - Geneva Bible 1560, pocket sized
- Censorship & Church courts collapse -- 1640
 - Monopolies finally broken
 - Prices down to 1 shilling
 - Over 1 million Bibles
- Church based on a strictly controlled Hierarchy
 - Accessible to common man to make own interpretation
 - Removal of Church trained intermediary to interpret
 - Loss of centralised Church control
 - Alternates possible (cf. "root")
 - No "Authorised version"



Somerset, England, 1663

"Where is the Church?"

"The Church is where the congregation is assembled ..."

Control & Castigation



Pointers from the past

- Language as an Identifier
 - > Of roles and capabilities
 - Access enables those roles
 - Controlling access denies others
- Language as an *Identity*
 - Common language as a basis of Participation
 - > "The People have spoken" ...
- Language transition does happen
 - Peaceful or Traumatic
 - Evolution vs. Revolution
 - Issues take time
 - Loss of control



Key Questions

Vox Populi vs. Vox Internettie?

• Language – Who's in control?

• Internet hierarchy – Impact?



Objectives

- Identity vs. Identifier dialectic
 - Broaden it ...
 - > ... not address it
- Give IDN Context
 - Pointers from our past
 - ... heel-mark for today
- IDN means Change
 - Technology is one factor
 - > ... so radical that we should fear?
 - > ... or so beneficial that we should embrace?
- Handout on site





Jonathon Cohen on IDN's

"No matter how urgent,
...no matter how important,
...we need to get it right..."

MINC Melbourne March



IAB vs IETF

• IAB -- What is required to build the next generation Jumbo jet?

 IETF -- What is required to make a plane fly?

"Chalk & Cheese"



IAB



IETF





Runways? Buildings? Customs?

1902

1903

2001



John Klensin on IDN

- Goals
- Example Traps
- Localization-specific risks
- Character Coding
- DNS-linked Structures
- Top-level names in national languages
- Humans and their languages
- IA4/ "hostname rules" are really easy
- The Matching Problem
- Humans have harder expectations
- Success criteria ... and



An Extreme Conclusion

"If you are not frightened yet..."

"You don't understand the problem"

Depends on how you view it



What can you do with ...

- A 6 story high building
- 3 million components
- 274 kilometers of wire
- 8 kilometers of tube
- 3 million fasteners
- 73 tons of metal
- 6 tons of food
- 365 lights
- 40% of the world population

... build a Jumbo Jet ©



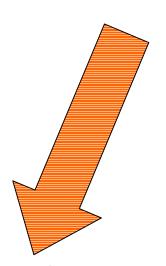
Present day Heel-mark

- IDN's are a journey, not a destination
- Technology is not the End
 ... but the Start of a process
- Will develop and change over time
 ... no finishing point, no final flag
- Challenges there may be,
 ... have we the courage to face them?
- Boundaries certainly there are,
 ... have we the vision to leap forwards?
- Policies may still lag,
 ... have we the wisdom to build them?



Objectives

- Identity vs. Identifier dialectic
 - Broaden it ...
 - > ... not address it
- Give IDN Context
 - > Pointers from our past
 - ... heel-mark for today
- IDN means Change
 - Technology is one factor
 - > ... so radical that we should fear?
 - > ... or so beneficial that we should embrace?
- Handout on site





In Closing

- Finishing line ...
- We don't need any
 But we do need to Start ...





Questions ... info@i-dns.net